

# NEWS FROM

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## **Financial Aid Tip of the Month, April 2005**

### **AlabamaMentor.org is great website for students, parents, counselors**

Alabama students from eighth-graders through adults and guidance counselors have a great resource in the AlabamaMentor.org website, which provides free college and career planning information.

A cooperative effort among colleges, state agencies and other organizations, AlabamaMentor.org is a one-stop site that students can begin using as eighth-graders. The site contains sections on planning for college, selecting a school, paying for college, careers and adult education.

Students can set up free accounts that will let them apply to colleges online and can also run free scholarship searches to find financial aid programs that match their interests, abilities and backgrounds. They can take virtual tours of the schools they're interested in, and there's a search function that can match schools to students' personal interests in terms of a major, school size and other factors. Students will also find a comparison of Alabama colleges that shows enrollment, student to faculty ratios, costs and other factors.

The college planning section of AlabamaMentor.org has checklists for students in grades 8 through 12. Starting with their junior year, AlabamaMentor.org provides a month-by-month list of actions college-bound students should take. The college planning section also lets students who have set up their free accounts keep track of their courses and grades as they go through their high school years.

In addition, the site lets users search individual colleges' websites. Students can search up to 10 websites at a time.

There is also a Counselor Center that will help counselors track their students' progress through the college admissions and career exploration processes.

For more information about student financial aid and college planning, visit [www.alstudentaid.com](http://www.alstudentaid.com); write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.